

## **FISCAL NOTE**

### **SB 3679 - HB 3594**

March 11, 2006

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Abolishes the death penalty and commutes the sentences of all persons currently sentenced to death to a sentence of life without parole.

### **ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

#### **Decrease State Expenditures – Net Impact – Not Significant**

Assumptions:

- Decrease in state expenditures from the Indigent Defense Fund in excess of \$3,300,000 annually for attorneys, expert witnesses, and investigators for trials and appeals of capital cases.
- Increase in state expenditures if time incarcerated for a sentence of life imprisonment without parole is lengthier than the time served while awaiting execution. Tennessee has executed one inmate in the past 40 years. For informational purposes, assume an additional 10 years of incarceration at a cost of \$182,700 for one person who would have been executed every thirty years. There are currently 103 persons on death row.
- Decrease in expenditures of \$1,268,800 for abolishing the Office of Post-Conviction Defender, based on the Governor's Budget for FY06-07.
- Decrease in state expenditures, estimated to exceed \$100,000, for the Office of the Attorney General for eliminating death penalty appeals.

### **CERTIFICATION:**

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James W. White, Executive Director